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## **EPSDT Blood Lead Testing Requirements, Lead-Safe Virginia, & the Discontinued Usage of the Division of Consolidated Laboratories**

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify EPSDT screening providers of mandatory blood lead testing requirements and guidelines from Lead-Safe Virginia, and to clarify the use of Medicaid enrolled laboratories for pediatric lead testing.

### **EPSDT REQUIREMENTS FOR LEAD TESTING**

As part of the definition of EPSDT services, the Medicaid Statute requires coverage for children to include both screening and blood lead tests as appropriate, based on age and risk factors. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires that all Medicaid enrolled children receive a blood test at 12 months and 24 months of age. Children enrolled in Medicaid between the ages of 24 months and 72 months of age must also receive a blood lead test. The medical record will be deemed insufficient if the recipient has not been previously screened.

### **REQUIRED PHYSICIAN ACTIVITIES FOR EPSDT LEAD SCREENING**

- Take careful history regarding possible lead exposure at each routine visit.
- A child must be tested if the parent or guardian requests testing due to possible exposure.
- Provide nutrition and risk reduction educational materials for parents (see the 2002 CDC Case Management Manual available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the VDH Lead-Safe Virginia web pages referenced in this memorandum).
- Testing may be performed by venipuncture or capillary. Filter paper methods are also acceptable. The use of handheld testing machines must be approved through the Lead- Safe Virginia Program to assure proper



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quality assurance and reporting of data.

- Confirm elevated capillary blood lead levels  $\geq 10$   $\mu\text{g/dL}$ .
- A second capillary sample for confirmation is allowable if performed within 12 weeks (84 days) of the original capillary sample.
- A venous sample is considered “confirmed.” If the venous sample indicates levels are at or above 15  $\mu\text{g/dL}$ , an environmental lead investigation is warranted.

<b>If result of screening test (<math>\mu\text{g/dL}</math>) is:</b>	<b>Perform diagnostic test on venous blood within:</b>
10-19	3 months
20-44	1 month - 1 week*
45-59	48 hours
60-69	24 hours
70 or higher	Immediately as an emergency lab test

Lead-Safe Virginia provides clinical guidance for the management of children with elevated venous blood levels. The Lead-Safe Virginia Program provides treatment and/or follow-up advice through their free Medical hotline at 1-866-767-5323 (1-866-SOS-LEAD). The hotline is operated at the University of Virginia and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you have any questions about environmental lead testing, contact Lead-Safe Virginia toll-free at 1-877-668-7987. You may also email Lead-Safe Virginia at [leadsafe@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:leadsafe@vdh.virginia.gov).

Primary care physicians (PCPs), MCOs, and other screening providers must work with the local health department to assure the following services are provided for children with EBL:



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- Nutritional and environmental hazard reduction counseling;
- Developmental assessment and physical examination when appropriate (per CDC guidance); and
- Environmental investigations for children who have blood lead levels above 15 µg/dL.

### **LEAD TESTING PROCEDURE CODES**

<b>Service Description</b>	<b>Procedure Code</b>
Capillary Sample	CPT 36416
Venous Sample (recommended)	CPT 36415
Lead Lab Test (paid to Lab or EPSDT screener)	CPT 83655
Specimen Handling/Conveyance	CPT 99000
Environmental Investigation	T1029

### **LEAD TESTING CLAIMS PROCESS**

☒ When lead testing is provided during a well child visit or other health care encounter, the EPSDT screener must use the lead testing procedure codes above with a “25” modifier in block 24D of the CMS-1500 Claim Form. Independent Laboratories or EPSDT screeners that have an approved laboratory will bill the 83655 code when the lead test is performed. When lead testing is performed in an office setting and no examination is done, claims will reflect only the lead testing or the appropriate specimen handling codes. A comprehensive list of Medicaid-enrolled lab providers is attached to this memorandum and may also be found by contacting the DMAS Provider HELPLINE, or by accessing the DMAS web site at <http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/>.

When blood lead testing is provided to a client enrolled in a Virginia Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO), please follow the MCOs specific billing instructions. Remember you should always verify Medicaid eligibility before



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services are rendered. Eligibility verification information is noted on page 4 of this memo. These systems also provide managed care enrollment information

### **LEAD-SAFE VIRGINIA GUIDELINES**

Virginia regulations for “testing children for elevated blood lead levels” (12 VAC 5-120) requires that labs report ALL blood lead tests on children under the age of six within 10 days of analysis. Virginia “Reportable Disease” regulations also require the reporting of all “elevated” blood lead levels (EBL) on all ages using the EP-1 Form to the Office of Epidemiology at VDH. This form can be found on the VDH web site at [www.vdh.virginia.gov/epi/epi1.pdf](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epi/epi1.pdf).

### **INAPPROPRIATE USE OF DIVISION OF CONSOLIDATED LABORATORIES**

DMAS-enrolled physicians and health departments have previously sent lab tests to the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) for lead testing analysis. Funding is provided to DCLS by the CDC for the analysis of tests for individuals who do not have insurance coverage for this service.

As of July 1, 2005, DCLS is not allowed to use CDC funds to provide lead screening/testing on children that are eligible for Medicaid or other insurance coverage. It is still appropriate to send blood lead tests to DCLS for children with no insurance and no ability to pay.

A list of Medicaid-enrolled lab providers is attached and also may be found by contacting the DMAS Provider HELPLINE, or by accessing the DMAS web site at <http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/>. For clients enrolled in MCOs, LabCorp is a contracted provider for all MCOs. Please contact the MCOs for whom you provide services for a complete list of laboratory providers and locations.



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## **MEDICAID FUNDED ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS**

Environmental investigations are a service offered by Medicaid through Lead-Safe Virginia. Environmental investigations are reimbursed to DMAS-enrolled health departments. Medicaid funds are not available for the testing of environmental substances such as water, paint, or soil. Please consult with the local health department or contact Lead-Safe Virginia to see if a patient qualifies for a risk assessment. For information about what an environmental lead investigation includes, go to <http://www.vahealth.org/leadsafe/newslep.htm>. Individuals in an MCO who are in need of an environmental investigation will be referred to their local health department as this service is carved out of the MCO coverage.

## **REMINDER NOTIFICATIONS TO RECIPIENTS AND PROVIDERS**

DMAS has revised the EPSDT birthday cards to include lead testing requirements and information for families about their upcoming well child appointments. The cards will be sent to all Medicaid-eligible recipients, including those enrolled in a MCO, under the age of 6. Follow-up notices will also be sent to the providers who have not billed a lead test as part of the relevant EPSDT screening to remind them that a test is required.

For more information about blood lead testing and lead exposure, consult the following resources:

Lead-Safe Virginia:

<http://www.vahealth.org/leadsafe/index.htm>

Environmental Protection Agency  
(EPA):

<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/lead/index.html>



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CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and Journals of the American Medical Association Vol. 152, No.5, May 1998: A Community Outreach Lead Screening Program Using Capillary Blood Collected on Filter Paper:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/lead.htm>

Alliance for Healthy  
Homes:

<http://www.afhh.org>

Coalition To End Childhood Lead  
Poisoning:

<http://www.leadSAFE.org/index.htm>

The National Lead Information  
Center (NLIC):

<http://www.epa.gov/lead/nlic.htm>

### **ELIGIBILITY AND CLAIMS STATUS INFORMATION**

DMAS offers a web-based Internet option (ARS) to access information regarding Medicaid or FAMIS eligibility, claims status, check status, service limits, prior authorization, and pharmacy

prescriber identification. The website address to use to enroll for access to this system is <http://virginia.fhsc.com>. The MediCall voice response system will provide the same information and can be accessed by calling 1-800-884-9730 or 1-800-772-9996. Both options are available at no cost to the provider.



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## **COPIES OF MANUALS**

DMAS publishes electronic and printable copies of its Provider Manuals and Medicaid Memoranda on the DMAS website at [www.dmas.virginia.gov](http://www.dmas.virginia.gov). Refer to the Provider Column to find Medicaid and SLH (State and Local Hospitalization Program) Provider Manuals or click on “Medicaid Memos to Providers” to view Medicaid Memoranda. The Internet is the most efficient means to receive and review current provider information. If you do not have access to the Internet or would like a paper copy of a manual, you can order it by contacting Commonwealth- Martin at 1-804-780-0076. A fee will be charged for the printing and mailing of the manuals and manual updates requested.

## **“HELPLINE”**

The “HELPLINE” is available to answer questions Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on state holidays. The “HELPLINE” numbers are:

1-804-786-6273 Richmond area and out-of-state long distance

1-800-552-8627 All other areas (in-state, toll-free long distance)

Please remember that the “HELPLINE” is for provider use only. Please have your Medicaid Provider Identification Number available when you call.

## **PROVIDER E-NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP**

DMAS is pleased to inform providers about the creation of a new Provider E-Newsletter. The intent of this electronic newsletter is to inform, communicate, and share important program information with providers. Covered topics include changes in claims processing, common problems with billing, new programs or changes in existing programs, and other information that may directly affect providers. If you would like to receive the electronic newsletter, please sign up at [www.dmas.virginia.gov/pr-provider\\_newletter.asp](http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/pr-provider_newletter.asp).



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Please note that the Provider E-Newsletter is not intended to take the place of Medicaid Memos, Medicaid Provider Manuals, or any other official correspondence from DMAS.